Setting up Textile Processing Units in Assam

*113 SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up textile processing units in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise/location-wise;

(c) the cost of these projects; and

(d) by when these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) Textile processing units are largely set up in the private sector in the country, including in Assam. There is no proposal to set up any new central public sector processing unit.

State of preparedness of Indian Air Force

*114. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Times of India dated February 8th 1999, under the caption, "IAF planes skipped war preparedness tests"; and

(b) if so, what is Govenment's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Directorate of Air Staff Inspection (DASI) under Air Headquarters conducts flying checks with the intention of ascertaining efficacy of the flying training environment. In fact Air Headquarters have reported that the Indian Air Force achieved the highest amount of flying during the period 1996-97 as compared to 1995-96 with an increase of 6.13% in flying hours.

In fact to reconfirm the operational preparedness, specific tasks were given to DASI during 1998 to assess the operational preparedness of the combat units. It was brought out clearly by the team that our front line combat units are capable of undertaking all the assigned roles.

Consumption of Power in Industrial and Agricultural Sectors

*115. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumption of power in the Industrial Sector is more than that in the agricultural sector;

(b) if not, the average consumption of power in both the sectors, separately;

(c) whether the recovery rate for power consumption is more than the average cost of production in industrial sector as compared to agricultural sector;

(d) if so, the details of the average cost of production and recovery rate of consumption of power in agricultural and industrial sectors, separately; and

(e) the likely rate of power for domestic and commercial use, separately?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The consumption of power in the industrial sector during 1996-97 was 104072 GWH against the agricultural sector consumption of 84019 GWH.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, during the year 1996-97 the recovery rate for the power consumption in industrial sector taking all SEBs together was more than the cost of supply (production) whereas for agricultural sector the recovery rate for the same period for all SEBs was less than cost of supply (production). The